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PP RUEHIK  
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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 131240Z JAN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4062  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEN/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6121  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3811  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3670  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4363  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4295  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1410  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000047

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN AND FOR OES (SCHENA), ASTANA FOR  
HUDSPETH, ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/BURPOE/COHEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TRGY](#) [ENRG](#) [BTIO](#) [PGOV](#) [SENV](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMEN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE ENERGY  
CONFERENCE

REF: A. 09 ASHGABAT 1676  
[1](#)B. 09 ASHGABAT 1600

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public internet.

[1](#)2. (U) On January 11, the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent an announcement to all diplomatic missions about a conference, "Problems of Use of Alternative Energy in Turkmenistan," that is being organized by the Academy of Sciences on February 24-25. This notice included a brief description of the topics for the conference and detailed instructions for registration. According to the announcement, the conference will focus on the technical, ecological, and economic aspects of the development of alternative energy sources. In addition, conference topics will include new research, new technologies, and maintenance of existing systems. The conference organizers stated that their goals for the conference are to compare foreign and domestic experience in using alternative energy, and to attract partners to assist in increasing the use of alternative energy and in the introduction of new technologies.

[1](#)3. (U) The remainder of the material submitted with the diplomatic note was a solicitation for conference participants. The organizers requested potential participants to submit a summary and abstract of the report that they would present. The working languages of the conference will be Turkmen, English, and Russian. The announcement added that applicants invited by the organizing committee will be fully reimbursed for all travel and lodging expenses. The announcement did not discuss registration procedures for conference participants who will not make a presentation. Additional information about the conference is available on the Academy of Sciences' website at [www.science.gov.tm/en/events/conf\\_sun\\_energy/](http://www.science.gov.tm/en/events/conf_sun_energy/)

[1](#)4. (SBU) COMMENT: The Turkmen Government appears to be putting a lot of effort into this alternative energy

conference, probably because Turkmenistan President Berdimuhamedov announced in 2009 that the Academy of Sciences needed to bolster research on alternative energy (Ref A). Unfortunately, the formal announcement arrived at Post only four days before the participant application deadline, leaving little time to spread the word. The delay was more likely caused by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs bureaucracy than by the conference organizers. When Poloff met with the Academy of Sciences at the end of November 2009, they mentioned the conference (Ref B). One positive is how accessible the Academy of Sciences has made information. The registration information included in the dip note has been on the Academy's website since November 2009. The organizers gave an email address to submit registration documents, and they provided phone numbers for additional information, both in English and Russian. In addition, the fact that the conference title contains the word "problems" indicates that a more open discussion of the current situation might occur than the Turkmen Government usually allows. END COMMENT.

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